

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the excellent examination and for further consideration of the present application.

Claims Objections:

Claims 1, 3-8, 11-16, and 21-27 remain in the application. Claims 2, 9-10, 17-20 and 28-31 have been canceled.

The Examiner has objected to typographical errors in claim 5-6, 16, 24-25 and 27. Claims 5-6, 16 and 24-25 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. With respect to claim 27, the phrase "for delivering the RFID data to the system" has been deleted. Accordingly the objections have been overcome.

The Examiner has objected to claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 17 has been canceled. Accordingly, the objection is moot.

Claim Rejections under Section 102:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, 12-19 and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent Number 5,629,981 (the '981 Patent).

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner states "Nerlikar discloses an information management and security system as recited in claim[s] 1...". See Office Action, page 4, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully disagrees as the present invention is not an information management and

security system. Rather, the present invention is directed at, and independent claims 1 and 16 recite, a Radio Frequency Identification process control system.

The difference between Applicant's invention and the '981 Patent are numerous. The present invention is a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) process control system having an enclosure housing an interface, an RFID controller, process control software, a computer controlled switch and a power management subsystem. As explained by Applicant in the present application, by integrating process control software within the same enclosure containing a reader, controller and computer controlled switch, total process control is achieved at the Point of Action. See application, page 11, lines 4-7.

The '981 Patent does not disclose nor does it relate to or suggest a process control system with an enclosure housing an interface, RFID controller, process control software and computer controlled switch. Quite the contrary, the '981 Patent discloses and claims an information management and security system that includes a host network element. See claim 1 of the '981 Patent. A host network element is seen in Figures 5A and 6 of the '981 Patent where "Network Server" or "Office Central/Switch" is depicted. Thus, contrary to Applicant's invention, with the system of the '981 Patent process control is not achieved at the Point of Action since a single enclosure does not house both the host network element (Network Server or Office Central/Switch) and RFID controller (element 316) of the '981 Patent.

The Examiner equates a "refurbish equipment" of the '981 Patent to an enclosure according to Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. According to the '981 Patent, element 518 is described in connection with a printing cassette refurbishing/recycling

equipment. See '981 Patent, col. 16, lines 16-18. Applicant's enclosure has nothing to do with a printing cassette or with refurbishing and/or recycling. Instead, Applicant's enclosure is used to house an interface, RFID controller, process control software and computer controlled switch.

To further distinguish and clarify what Applicant considers to be the present invention, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 16 to require an enclosure housing the interface, RFID controller, process control software and computer controlled switch.

Furthermore, Applicant has further amended independent claims 1 and 16 to require a power management subsystem within the enclosure operably coupled to components requiring power with the power management subsystem capable of providing both DC and AC power. Support for this amendment can be found in the application at page 11, lines 16-20 as well as in Figure 1 which depicts a power management subsystem 60 inside an enclosure 20.

Applicant would respectfully point out that none of the cited prior art discloses, alone or in combination, an RFID process control system having an enclosure that house an interface, RFID controller, process control software and computer controlled switch. Moreover, none of the cited prior art discloses, relates to, teaches or suggests an RFID process control system having a power management system that provides both DC and AC power.

Claims rejections under Section 103:

The examiner has rejected claims 10-11 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '981 Patent in view of US Patent Number 6,563,087 (the '087 Patent).

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Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2007

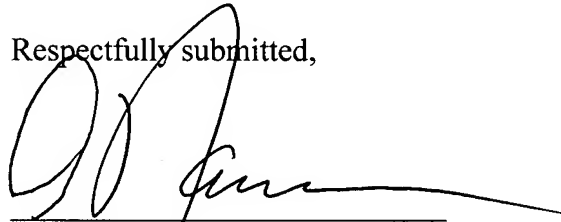
However, given the numerous differences between the '981 Patent and the present invention, Applicant respectfully disagrees that the '087 Patent can be combined with the '981 Patent in order to form the basis of a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Conclusion:

It is believed independent claims 1 and 16 are patentably distinct over the cited prior art and all other claims depend on claims that are patentably distinct.

Accordingly, Applicant believes pending claims 1, 3-8, 11-16, and 21-27 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur I. Navarro', written over a horizontal line.

Arthur I. Navarro
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 40,744

Navarro Law Office, P.C.
PO Box 166851
Irving, TX 75016
artnavarro@verizon.net
(972) 659-1275 - tel/fax